

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Final Office Action mailed on February 25, 2005, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 3, and 7 are amended, Claims 2, 4-6, 8-9, 11, 13, and 15-16 are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, Claims 1, 3, 7, 10, 12, and 14 are now pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submitted a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and a 1449 Form on February 4, 2005. Applicants respectfully request that an initialed copy of the 1449 Form be returned to Applicants' Representatives to indicate that the cited references have been considered by the Examiner.

Section 102 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Ligon (U.S. Patent No. 3,820,826). Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of previous Claim 9 as explained below under *Allowed Subject Matter* and Applicants contend that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Section 103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bender. There is no patent "Bender" cited in this case. Accordingly, Applicants do not understand this rejection. However, the rejection is now moot as Claim 8 is canceled and Claim 7 has been amended as explained under *Allowed Subject Matter*. Applicants contend that Claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-8, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ligon (U.S. Patent No. 3,820,826). This rejection is now moot as Claims 2-8, 15, and 16 are herein canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9-14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 7 is herein amended to include the limitation of Claim 9. Thus, currently amended Claim 7 is an independent claim identical in scope to previous Claim 9 and is in condition for allowance as indicated by the Examiner. Claim 10 depends from Claim 9 and is therefore also in condition for allowance. Similarly, currently amended Claim 1 has herein been amended to include the limitation of previous Claim 11 and currently amended Claim 3 has herein been amended to include the limitation of previous Claim 13. Thus, previous Claims 11 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form and are in condition for allowance as indicated by the Examiner. Claims 12 and 14 depend on currently amended Claims 1 and 3 respectively and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 3, 7, 10, 12, and 14 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (989-297-1298) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3019

Respectfully submitted,

HARRY EUGENE FLYNN ET AL.

By their Representatives,

The Law Office of Stanley K. Hill, PLC
c/o PortfolioIP
P.O. Box 52050
Minneapolis, MN 55402
989-297-1298

Date April 12, 2005

By

Stanley K Hill

Stanley K Hill
Reg. No. 37,548

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 12 day of April, 2005

Chris Hammond

Name

Chris Hammond

Signature